

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

08/941,832

Examiner

Hugh Jones

Applicant(s)

CHACON, GUILLERMO RUDOLFO

Art Unit

2128

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 9/9/2004; 8/11/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 37-50.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

HUGH JONES Ph.D.
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 37-50 of U. S. Application 08/941,832, filed 10/01/1997 are presented for examination. Claims 37-50 are allowed over the prior art of record.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 37-50 are allowed over the prior art of record.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The closest art of record is Seppanen which discloses: "Kanban Simulator using Siman and Lotus 1-2-3." See particularly: abstract; and pp. 838-844. In particular, Seppanen discloses:

Figure 6 "Kanban Simulator Information Flow" – "Model Worksheet"; Table 2; section 5.1 "Model worksheet"; figure 5 "Kanban worksheet"); "Kanban Simulator Information Flow" – "KANBPREP", Kanban.mod, "MODEL", "PUSH.E", "PUSH.P", "PULL.E", "PULL.P"); "Kanban Simulator Information Flow" – "SIMAN"); "Kanban Simulator Information Flow"; Table 1, block 16; Last paragraph, col. 2, pg. 839 to col. 1, pg. 840); "Kanban Simulator Information Flow" – "Model Worksheet"; Table 1, blocks 1-2, 5-10, Table 2, "arrivals, resources, stations").

However, Seppanen does not disclose or suggest *controlling a manufacturing production line*, in the context of the claims. Applicants are thanked for their argument in line 5 of page 3 to line 2 of page 4 of their response of 09/09/2004. Therefore, the claims are allowed over the prior art of record.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be:

directed to:

Dr. Hugh Jones telephone number (571) 272-3781, Monday-

Thursday 0830 to 0700 ET,

or

the examiner's supervisor, Jean Homere, telephone number (571) 272-3780.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist, telephone number (703) 305-3900.

mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 308-9051 (for formal communications intended for entry)

or (703) 308-1396 (for informal or draft communications, please label *PROPOSED* or *DRAFT*).

Dr. Hugh Jones

Primary Patent Examiner

September 20, 2005

HUGH JONES, PL.
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100